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**A Muslim Example of Modernity? The Life of Abdurrashid Ibrahim in a Changing World
(late 19th/early 20th centuries)**

At first sight, the life of the Tatar cleric, publicist and politician Abdurrashid Ibrahim (1857-1944) appears to be only the product of the restlessness of a single individual: Ibrahim surprised not only his contemporaries, but also later generations with a great amount of different activities and roles he assumed, ranging from political and publicistic activities in the Russian and Ottoman Empires, Japan and Germany, the work as secret agent for the Ottoman secret service *Teşkilat-ı Mahsusa* and chief imam in a German camp for Muslim prisoners of war to the life of a farmer in an Anatolian village and Pan-Asian activist in Japan and many more.

If the astonishing diversity of Ibrahim's activities was only the result of his personality or his specific character traits, research into his life would be of interest only for his biographers and perhaps for psychologists, but not for historians. However, as my presentation will try to show, research into Ibrahim's life and the circumstances of his various activities in different countries may reveal important information also on the epoch he was living in: not only was Ibrahim one of the first representatives of the Pan-Islamist ideology, which came into existence as a reaction to colonialism, but also he might be seen as a „modern“ actor, typical for the political scene typical of the 20th century; for instance, his political activities in Japan from 1908 to 1910 and then from 1933 onwards as diaspora community activist on the one hand, and political actor with close links to the Japanese establishment firmly supporting Japanese foreign policy on the other hand would have been unthinkable with a early 19th century figure, let alone previous centuries.

This presentation will have a double aim: on the one hand, it tries to give an interpretation to Ibrahim's many-sided activities in the light of the epoch he was living in. On the other hand, it will use the example of Ibrahim's life to shed light on the epoch he was living in, as the late 19th and early 20th centuries with their specific mixture of politics and religion might also be characterized as the epoch when a life such as Ibrahim's was possible.